

The improvements in body armor Brownlee championed while in the Senate proved so successful in saving lives in Iraq and Afghanistan that the Army in recent months faced a public maelstrom, forcing the service to field the protective gear more quickly and broadly than it had earlier planned. Brownlee recently visited an armor manufacturing plant to press managers to further ramp up production. According to one person who was at the meeting, Brownlee left no doubt about his seriousness that the production schedule would have to improve dramatically. "If it involves force protection, then do it with the utmost urgency," Brownlee says. "If you only get it out there one day early, you still might save a life," he says.

"Here's a guy that goes almost every day to visit troops at Walter Reed [Army Medical Center in Washington]," says Punaro. "I don't think many people know that about Les, and Les wouldn't want anybody to know about it. But this is a guy who cares deeply about men and women in uniform and their families. It's not just something that happened since he became acting secretary."•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 352. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world.

H. Con. Res. 378. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 409. Concurrent resolution recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 352. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of people of In-

dian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 378. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 409. Concurrent resolution recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7555. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7556. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7557. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the position of Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7558. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a designation of acting officer for the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, Department of Defense, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7559. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7560. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination rejected, withdrawn, or returned for the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7561. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, Department of Defense, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7562. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the increased cost of the Joint Strike Fighter Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7563. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness,

Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the closure of the commissary located on Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7564. A communication from the Director for Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the rotation of PFIAB Administrative Assistant; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7566. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's 2003 inventory of activities that are not inherently governmental functions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7567. A communication from the Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the details of the Office's 2004 Compensation Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7568. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to accessibility for people with disabilities in the Information Age; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7569. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report to Congress pursuant to The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act of 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7570. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Prison Industries Fiscal Year 2003 Management Report and Independent Financial Audit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7571. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Intelligence Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7572. A communication from the Vice Chairs, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7573. A communication from the Director of Engineering, Maintenance, and Operations, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Freedom of Information Act for Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7574. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, twelve recommendations for legislative action; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7575. A communication from the Office of Regulation, Policy, and Management, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Veterans' Appeals: Rules of Practice—Notice of Procedures Relating to Withdrawal of Services by a Representative" (RIN2900-AL45) received on May 10, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7566. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Environmental Restoration Program report; to the Committee on Armed Services.